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SOUTHERN STANDARD

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Footnote on Benton.

There is an immense deal of information contained within the lids of the Congressional Globe, 21st Vol., Part 1st, 1st session of the 31st Congress. To a considerable extent this information is not within the immediate reach of the people, and holding it to be our duty to throw such information as we may possess before our readers, touching the political history of our public men, we have gathered up some interesting and amusing extracts from Footnote's Benton speech. The consistency of Senator Footnote is of a very questionable character. But that our readers may fully grasp the vacillating character of Senator Footnote, we republish the bill introduced by Mr. Benton, and a portion of Mr. Footnote's comments on the Missouri Senator.

Mr. Benton's Texas Bill.

A BILL, proposing to the State of Texas the reduction of her boundaries, the cession of her exterior territory, and the relinquishment of all her claims upon the United States, for a consideration to be paid her by the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, That the following propositions shall be, and the same are hereby offered to the State of Texas, which, when agreed to by the said State, in an act passed by her General Assembly, shall be binding and obligatory upon the United States and upon the State of Texas.

First.—The State of Texas will reduce her boundary on the west to the one hundred and second degree of west longitude, from the meridian of Greenwich; and on the north to the Main or Salt Fork of Red River, between the parallels of one hundred and one hundred and two degrees of west longitude.

Second.—When the population of said State shall equal or exceed one hundred thousand souls west of the line formed by the ninety-eighth degree of west longitude, and by the Colorado, from its mouth to its intersection by said parallel, then the State of Texas will further reduce her western boundary to that line; and the part of Texas lying west of that line, as reduced by the first article of this agreement, shall be and remain a separate State, entitled to immediate admission into the Federal Union, on an equal footing with the original States.

Third.—The State of Texas cedes to the United States all her territory exterior to the limits to which she deduces herself by the first article of this agreement.

Fourth.—The State of Texas relinquishes all claims upon the United States for indemnity of the debts of Texas, and for compensation or indemnity for the surrender to the United States of her ships, ports, arsenals, custom-houses, custom-house revenue, arms and munitions of war, and public buildings, with their sites, which became the property of the United States at the time of the annexation.

Fifth.—The United States, in consideration of said reduction of boundaries, cession of territory, and relinquishment of claims, will pay to the State of Texas the sum of fifteen millions of dollars in a stock bearing five per cent. interest, and redeemable at the end of fourteen years, the interest payable half yearly at the Treasury of the United States.

Sixth.—Immediately after the President of the United States shall have been furnished with an authentic copy of the act of the General Assembly of Texas, accepting these propositions, he shall cause the stock to be issued in favor of the State of Texas, as provided for in the fifth article of this agreement.

Mr. Footnote after venting a little spite for having been anticipated by Mr. Benton in bringing forward a proposition to reduce the boundaries of Texas—Mr. F. had prepared a bill for a similar purpose—he pitches in to the Missouri Senator in the following delicate and interesting style.

Senator Footnote Bentonizing.

"I certainly did not perceive the wisdom of excluding from the limits of Texas, in the manner proposed by the bill of the honorable Senator from Missouri [Mr. Benton] just introduced, all the territory which he now asks that the United States shall purchase from the State of Texas; every foot of which, so soon as purchased, (unless some precautionary guards, apparently not deemed necessary or proper by the honorable Senator from Missouri,) would be claimed infallibly as subject to the Wilmot proviso. I knew, to be sure, sir, that in the Legislature of the State of New York, resolutions had been the other way introduced, limiting Texas to the precise boundaries asserted to be her true boundaries by the honorable Senator from Missouri, at the period when the Texas annexation resolutions were under discussion in this Chamber. I was aware, also, certainly, that these New York resolutions had been introduced for the purpose of perpetrating a most hideous fraud upon the South, by applying the principle of the Wilmot proviso to all the territory asserted to belong to New Mexico. Yes, sir, all these things I knew, and I hope duly appreciate; but never did I enter my head to conceive that there was in existence a human being—a member of this illustrious body, too—representing among us one of the slave States of the Confederacy—who would dare take it upon himself to bring forward a bill like that which has made its ghastly apparition among us this morning, and which, if it should become a law, without amendment, will completely unsettle the question of slavery in all the vast domain which it proposes to purchase from the State of Texas. I say *unsettle* the question of slavery in all the territory referred to; and I say so upon grounds which cannot be disputed; for no one can deny that the annexation resolutions already cited did most effectually and permanently settle this question in all that was then recognized as the State of Texas. Yes, sir, the Missouri compromise principle was expressly applied to the territory annexed, and thus was all contention upon the most exciting and perilous question ever agitated in the republic completely precluded. The bill now brought forward, as will be perceived by those who will examine it, nullifies this Missouri compromise principle in all the territory proposed to be purchased; and every acre of it is placed in the same plight and condition precisely as California and our other recently acquired possessions."

We invite for the following a careful perusal, for in our opinion Senator Footnote never gave birth to expressions more pregnant with truth than is contained therein. Let the reader pass back to the bill that called these remarks out, and if convenient trace the boundary indicated by the bill for the reduction of Texas on a map, and see just what the bill proposed.

"I am by no means able to discern how it is that what the honorable Senator is pleased to call the free-soil principle was at all let in by the resolutions of annexation. On the contrary, I contend that this principle is most effectually and forever precluded from all the territory embraced within the limits of Texas by these very resolutions, and that there is a moral certainty that all the soil of Texas now open to the settlement of southern men and their slave property, will forever remain thus open. I will only mention two reasons, out of many which might be urged in support of this view of the subject; but they will be held to be sufficient by all unprejudiced minds. And, first, I ask honorable gentlemen to look at the surface of Texas, as indicated as it is with various noble rivers, all of them, except one, (the Red river,) running from the mountainous region of the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south, nearly in a straight line. Glance for a moment at the Sabine, the Trinity, the Brazos, the San Antonio, and Rio Bravo del Norte. Would any but a madman ever think of dividing Texas into new States without adopting some of these noble rivers as boundaries?"

Comment is superfluous. Senator Footnote was at the time the above remarks were made acting with the true Southern party; he was then for equality and justice. But read the following—it contains much sound sense.

"But let it be recollected that no such new State or States can ever be formed without the consent of Texas, and then let any man answer me the question, whether it is possible that the noble State here represented by the two distinguished gentlemen now in my eye [Messrs. Rusk and Houston]—a State so eminently Southern in her origin, her heroic achievements, her well known political principles, and her interests—can ever become so far removed to her own high character—her glorious deeds in the war of her revolution; how she can become so unmindful of her true honor—her safety now and in future—so blind to the accursed designs of the factionists who have already plotted her undoing, and the ultimate destruction of the whole South—as to be willingly used by unprincipled men, whether resident in the north or in the south—whether demagogues, fanatics or traitors—for the purpose of multiplying the number of our adversaries in the national councils, by permitting additional free States to be formed within her limits, whose representatives, heretofore and in the future, will be the sworn enemies of the South, and whose alliance with those base and unprincipled men who have so long kept up a wicked excitement in the two houses of Congress, and who will never be content until the fairest portion of this noble republic shall be subjected to ravage, to desolation, and to ruin—and until the most high-spirited and gallant people that the sun of heaven has ever shone upon shall be involved in scenes more horrible and more dishonoring than has ever yet polluted the pages of history. Never will Texas consent, or think for a moment of consenting, that a single acre of this, her valued territory, shall be given up to her own worst enemies, or to be used to enlarge the arena of gladiatorial strife; which is certainly large enough in all conscience, without this enormous addition to it. Now, sir, what a bright prospect does not the honorable Senator's bill unfold to us for the speedy organization of another State wherein his favorite free-soil principles may gain ascendancy! Sir, anxious as I was to bring about the early reduction of the territorial limits of Texas—satisfied as I was that this was decidedly necessary to the convenient management of her own governmental concerns—I certainly never thought of attempting to accomplish such an object by such means as he has chosen to adopt. As a senatorial representative of one of the slave States of the Confederacy, I could not have reconciled it to my own sense of duty to engage in any scheme which menaced the whole South with such serious detriment. Were I to bring forward at such a period as this a project so fraught with mischief as is this one to the whole slave-holding section of the Confederacy, I should expect to be speedily instructed out of my seat in this body; for true it is, as John Randolph used to say, those members of Congress who cannot be instructed in their seats, must perforce be instructed out of them. I do not mean to say that the parts of the honorable Senator's bill, to which I have been so seriously objecting, were plagiarized from me; but merely that all which is not actually mischievous in his bill was substantially copied from the bill now in my hand, as it was at first framed, and as it was described in the newspapers."

"This I had resolved to offer as a new scheme of compromise; which, with the establishment of a territorial government in New Mexico, in Desert, and California, and the ultimate admission of California as a State, when freed from her present unfortunate organization, I hoped might tend to settle the vexatious question of slavery for ever. I should certainly have offered the whole bill as it was first drawn up, and in the form in which I had submitted it to the consideration of various sage friends with whom I am in the habit of consulting upon this subject, but for certain proceedings in several of the free States of the North, of which we have been recently notified, which satisfied me that I could not offer anything that at all bore the characteristic features of a compromise, without encouraging our arrogant foes to fiercer and more extended aggressions, and bring down other more irritating insults upon the southern States of the Confederacy."

"The resolutions of Vermont, now upon your table—the incendiary messages of the Governors of Pennsylvania and of Massachusetts—the truly demagogical resolutions now before the New York Legislature—the extraordinary harangues made in this Hall since we assembled,—these and other facts of a kindred character satisfied me that the season for compromise had forever passed by; or that at least, if propositions of compromises were hereafter to be offered, they ought to emanate from the North. I became satisfied that the time had arrived when it behooved southern Senators and Representatives in Congress to stand firmly and resolutely up in strict maintenance of our Constitutional rights, as they were secured by our venerated forefathers; leaving it to the champions of aggression and the perpetrators of injustice to determine whether they would indeed take upon themselves and their constituents the responsibility of dissolving the Union which was once so justly dear to the heart of every American. It is he who presumes to disobey the instructions of the Missouri Legislature, to whom he owes the Senatorial robes which now invest his person, and all the opportunities of acquiring renown and influence which he has enjoyed for the last thirty years. It is he who has taken it upon himself to wander off some thousands of miles into the bosom of his own State, and to inveigh, in language of the coarsest scurrility and most venomous abuse, against men whom he dares not meet here in debate—whose characters, public and private, are as spotless as purity itself—and whose whole lives have been illustrated and adorned by the practice of all those virtues which bespeak the patriot, philanthropist, and the Christian. This, sir, is the heroic chieftain who, when far distant from the objects of his hostility, denounces them as traitors, disunionists, and villains, and threatens, on getting sight of them in the Senate house, to demolish them forever; but who, when he gets here once more among us, is either mysteriously and stoically silent, or, assuming a truly lamb-like meekness of aspect and of manner, and a soft nasality of intonation, is seen to crouch round the Senate Chamber as gently as any sucking dove."

"It will be hard to find on record a speech delivered by any public man that more fully or successfully impeaches the consistency and political character of the author than the above. The denunciations launched against the Missouri Senator, will now apply with a trenchant and powerful force to Senator Footnote himself. We are not called on to denounce Senator Footnote. His present as compared with his former attitude, deny to us that privilege, were we inclined to embrace it."

But the reader is requested to note with what violence Mr. Footnote bears down on Benton—there is a will that warms with the subject, and as the Mississippi senator rounds off one sentence, he comes up with renewed energy and opens up another, until at the close, the good old Saxon, apparently too weak and imperfect to express his "deep damnation," he sweeps into the classics by the way of appropriate finale.

But reader, do not overlook the miniature bust of the Missouri senator in the reference made by him to the remark of John Randolph on "instructions." Mr. Benton was under instructions from his state legislature at that time—Mr. Footnote is now under instructions from his state legislature, and is in a fair way to be "instructed out," as John Randolph "used to say."

[Here Mr. Benton left his seat, walked towards the door of the Senate Chamber, and passed rapidly through it.] See Mr. President, he flies as did those same deluded sons of Africa among whom his eloquence is reported to have awakened a regular stampede. He escapes me just as I was about to compare him to that degenerate Roman senator, whom Cicero once addressed in language that will never perish, exclaiming in the hearing of such men as Caesar, and Cato, and Brutus, with majestic cadence: "*Quoniam tandem abutere Catiline nostra patientia!*" As Tully said of that same degenerate Roman, I feel that I can say now, in behalf of myself and of my friends, in relation to him who has just departed from our presence, "*Tandem aliquando Quirites, L. Catilina furem audeat, scelus anhelantem pestem patrie nefarie molientem vobis atque ubi viri furum flammamque vivitalem, ex urbe, vel ejecimus, vel omnino, vel ipsam efferendum verbis prosequi sinimus.*" I may well add: "*Abiit—cessit—cessit—eripuit!*"

To prevent confusion and give the reader such facts as are necessary to expose the consistency of Mr. Footnote we give three articles of the bill for the reduction of the limits of Texas, as it became a law. Here they are.

First.—The State of Texas will agree that her boundary on the north shall commence at the point at which the meridian of one hundred degrees west from Greenwich is intersected by the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude, and shall run from said point due west to the meridian of one hundred and three degrees west from Greenwich; thence her boundary shall run due south to the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence on the said parallel of thirty-two degrees of north latitude to the Rio Bravo del Norte, and thence with the channel of said river to the Gulf of Mexico.

Second.—The State of Texas cedes to the United States all her claim to territory exterior to the limits and boundaries which she agrees to establish by the first article of this agreement.

Fourth.—The United States, in consideration of said establishment of boundaries, cession of claim to territory, and relinquishment of claims, will pay to the State of Texas the sum of ten millions of dollars, in a stock bearing five per cent. interest, and redeemable at the end of fourteen years, the interest payable half yearly at the Treasury of the United States.

We copy the following from the Fulton Monitor, in relation to a speech delivered at that place, by Col. Fontaine. Read it:

"On Tuesday, Col. Fontaine of Pontotoc, at the request of a portion of the Southern Rights party of this county, addressed his fellow-citizens in an able speech of an hour and a half's length—in which he has heretofore disapproved of the compromise measures and argued the necessity of the South asserting and demanding the whole of her rights. He showed conclusively, that she is more able to do so now, than she can be at any future time, and that such a demand would now be more likely to prove successful. He alluded to the attempt of the submission party to prevent an investigation of present affairs by the mad-dog cry of Disunion, and handled them and their petty trick without gloves. He approved of the assembling of a Southern Convention or Congress, and thought no good objection existed against it. He argued that South Carolina had taken a position from which she could not honorably recede and that it was important to meet her in Convention, to advise, counsel and assist her in opening way for a satisfactory and honorable settlement of the pending question. He was fully convinced that if the slaveholding States assembled in Convention and made a formal demand of their just rights, that their voice would be listened to, and their boon granted. He argued that it could not be otherwise, as the very existence almost of the North depended upon their union with the South, and that a disturbance of the affairs of the latter, would produce disaster and revolution throughout the civilized world. He spoke at length of the objects to be accomplished by the formation of the so-called Union Party of Mississippi justly ascribing a desire to sustain the present free-soil administration with Fillmore at its head, as cause of the movement. He stated explicitly that he was in favor of the Union, the Union which the Constitution formed, and if the present one could be restored to its pristine purity would be glad to perpetuate it through all time."

The following is an extract of a letter from a prominent citizen of Scott county in this State: "Senator Footnote and Gen. Smith had a discussion here yesterday, in which the former labored to prove his correct, upright and consistent course on all the questions that have so much agitated the country, or in any way affecting the rights and interests of the South. But the General could not fix it up to the satisfaction of a great majority of the people here. After a labored effort to spin his flimsy web, it was broken through, and scattered to the wind in so short a time by Judge Smith, that the subs dropped their heads, and many of them made for the door apparently to get out of hearing of the shouts sent up by the friends of their country's rights."

Correspondence between Gen. Quitman and the Central Southern Rights Association.

JACKSON, 19th March, 1851.

GEN. JOHN A. QUITMAN—
Dear Sir: Your fellow-citizens of the State of Mississippi have witnessed, with sincere admiration, your chivalrous and patriotic defence, not only of the rights of our common country upon the battle field, but the rights of the South against the assaults of its enemies, both at home and abroad—whose success in their efforts to prostrate the constitutional rights of the South was to be deplored almost as much as the success of a foreign foe. And for this, you have been defamed and persecuted; driven to the necessity of either resigning the high trust committed to your keeping by the people of the State, or of having that State degraded by submitting its Chief Executive officer to be carried away as a captive, to be tried by a foreign tribunal—and we have witnessed, with delight and gratitude, your triumphant acquittal, by the admission of your enemies that they had no proof to sustain their accusations, (evidently gotten up for sectional and party purposes.)

These things, sir, have had a tendency to endear you still more to the people of your own State with whom you are most familiar, and who best know how to appreciate you. And as a token of respect for your services as a soldier, for your able efforts as a patriot in behalf of Southern Rights, and their high appreciation of your character as a citizen, they have, (as you will perceive by the enclosed resolutions,) determined to give you a barbecue at the seat of Government, at such time as may suit your convenience to attend, and have appointed a committee to invite you to honor the festival with your presence.

In the performance of this duty, we respectfully request that you will designate an early day when you can attend and receive the congratulations of your fellow-citizens.

We have the honor to be, Very respectfully,
Your obt servants,
C. S. TARPLEY,
GEO. T. SWANN,
E. BARKSDALE,
D. N. BARROWS,
C. B. GREEN,
[Committee.]

MONMOUTH, 31st March, 1851.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst., enclosing sundry resolutions passed at a meeting of the Central Southern Rights Association, and inviting me, on behalf of that Association and other personal and political friends to partake of a barbecue at the seat of Government, at such time as may be convenient to me.

The circumstances under which this compliment is tendered, render it peculiarly gratifying to me, because it assures me that you approve of my conduct under trying circumstances, and that I am still honored with your confidence and esteem.

My position as Governor of a State which had been the first to recommend measures of resistance to the anti-slavery movements, and my expressed determination, in my official action, not to recede from the position which had been taken by the State, and which I hereby approve of, have subjected me to much bitter detraction and abuse.—Such is ever the fate of those who seek to restrain the abuses of power. The priests who derived honor and profit from the worship of the Ephesian Diana, and the goldsmiths who enriched themselves by it, cried aloud and furiously assailed the Messenger of Truth, who proclaimed doctrines which threatened to destroy the sources of their power and wealth. Those interested patriots, in answer to every argument, shouted "great is Diana," and "stone the traitor!" The selfish politicians of our day, who worship around the Presidential altar, with similar motives, drawn all reason and argument in hosannas to the "glorious Union," and abuse of those who will not submit quietly to be despoiled of their dearest rights in the name of the Union. Southern men who have been true to their section, have had to encounter a systematic course of denunciation; and those who have deserted its interests have been loaded with honor and praise from the same sources.

I have been complimented with being made a special object of vituperation. I know of no reason for it, except that, while Governor, I fearlessly endeavored to maintain the rights of the State, and with you, and thousands of the purest patriots of the South, have advanced opinions that the present state of the slavery question is incompatible with the equality of the slave-holding States in the confederacy, and have advocated some efficient State action to protect us from the unconstitutional and oppressive measures of the Federal Government. Whether the prosecution against me for an alleged violation of the neutrality laws, had its origin in these causes, I have not sufficient evidence to assert; but I do say that the prosecution was wholly unfounded; that not a single charge of the indictment was true; and that there never was, so far as I have been able to ascertain, any evidence to support it. Provoking and oppressive as was this prosecution towards me personally, it would not have deserved public consideration but for the manner—contemptuous, insulting and disrespectful to the State—in which it was carried on.

In urging the arrest and immediate removal of the Governor, there was deliberation and design; and it is fair to infer that design was to humble the State of Mississippi, and to prostrate her before the Federal power. The spirit that could dictate a flattering apology to the abolition city of Boston, for a most scandalous outrage upon law, as well as the principles of common honesty, is fit for the service of perverting the power of executing the laws, to insult a Southern State.

In the acts of the Administration, the Government and the anti-slavery States, we may read the signs of the times. We would be blind not to see them, and infatuated not to prepare for them.—They threaten around us so that we can no longer avoid them. We must determine to meet them face to face. We have been swindled out of the public domain. Even a portion of Texas, supposed to be secured as slave-holding, has been cut off. Every outlet to the extension of our institution has been firmly closed. The golden shores of the Pacific, open to the adventurers of the wide earth, are denied to Southern labor though, in part, acquired with our blood, and purchased with our treasure. We are now hemmed in on the West as well as the North. The line once fixed to save the Union has been contemptuously disregarded. The area for the employment of our labor has been circumscribed by the stern fiat, "thus far shalt thou go, and no further;" and while anti-slavery States may be indefinitely increased, the number of slave-holding States and their political power must remain stationary, or diminish. An effective step to the entire abolition of slavery in the Federal District, although surrounded by slave-holding States, has been adopted. The provision of the Constitution for the reclamation of fugitive slaves has not only been disregarded, but a number of the leading anti-slavery States have passed

laws to prevent its execution within their limits, and since the passage of the fugitive slave bill, its operation has generally been defeated by cunning legal devices, vexatious interventions, and some times by open violence.

A spirit hostile to slavery pervades most, if not all, the non-slaveholding States; and, in my judgment, this hostility is becoming daily more active, more practical, and consequently more dangerous. The so-called compromise, instead of allaying it, by yielding up all the public territory, appears to have stimulated this fell spirit to more efficient action.

In the great States of New York and Ohio, the recent contests for Senators have resulted in the election of men prominent for their extreme anti-slavery principles; and in Massachusetts, the contest lies between a free-soiler and an avowed abolitionist.

Not one of the States whose statute books contain laws to prevent the delivery up of fugitives from labor, was even formally acceded to the Clay and Footnote compromise, by repealing their obnoxious laws, and complying with their constitutional duty; and the most influential non-slaveholding States, in spite of the exertions of those politicians whose fate hangs on the success of their so-called compromise, show a fixed determination to repeal, or essentially change the fugitive slave law. In fine, hostility to slavery has never, in my opinion, assumed so organized and dangerous a character as it has done since the Wilmot Proviso was settled by excluding slavery from the territories, by the new and more effective means of the California and Mexican law provisions.

If there have heretofore been any grounds for action on the part of the Southern States, to avert the impending evil, or to prepare for self-protection if the evil could not be arrested, they exist now in a much greater degree than when the people of Mississippi, under the advice of distinguished citizens of both political parties, assembled in Convention, declared that the time had come when the Southern States should take counsel together and devise and adopt some mode of resistance to these aggressions, and resolved that they, representing the feelings and opinions of the people of Mississippi, would not submit to an exclusion from the public domain, nor to any act which would impair the equality of the States. To the substance of these resolutions, which appeared at that time to meet with general approbation, I trust and hope the people of Mississippi will adhere, regardless of the senseless cry of "Disunion."

The political equality of the States is the vital principle of the Constitution. Upon its strict maintenance depends our liberties. We are not permitted to surrender it, even to purchase temporary peace for ourselves. It is a sacred inheritance bequeathed by our sires, which it is our duty to transmit, unimpaired, to our children. If assailed, we must defend it, though the Union perish in the contest. But firmly and inflexibly to insist upon all our constitutional rights, and maintain them at all hazards, is the only mode of preserving the Union of the Constitution. All that we ask is justice and equal rights. If the measures complained of are just and proper, we should submit to them without complaint. If not, and our Constitutional rights be violated, or our equality in the Union be denied, we should insist upon them with confidence, and without fear of consequences. Those who counsel acquiescence and submission to sovereign States, must defend the measures complained of, as right, proper, and constitutional. A free people, jealous of their liberties, will not listen to those who advise submission to wrong and oppression. Humility and meekness are sometimes virtues in individuals, but they are faults, if not crimes, in States. Political communities must assert their rights, or none will concede them. The true issues, then, in our State are, acquiescence and concurrence in the late compromise bills, or opposition and resistance to them.

Southern Rights men may differ about the proper remedy. I have heretofore presented my views as to the proper remedies, in my late message, and by my signature to the address of the Central Committee, appointed by the friends of Southern Rights. I shall boldly and conscientiously advocate them, until the people of the State shall, in the Convention to meet in November next, declare the proper remedies, and establish the position which Mississippi is heretofore occupying on these vitally important subjects. Whatever that action may be, I doubt not it will be wise and efficient; and, as a State Rights man, I shall feel it my duty, even if at variance with my own opinions, to sustain the action of the State, in her sovereign character.

I have, gentlemen, thought proper to say thus much in answer to your obliging letter of invitation to attend a barbecue at the seat of Government. I shall be happy to accept your invitation at such time as may be convenient to you. As I learn, privately, that the 14th of May will be suitable to you, I accept it, unless you select another day.

With very high regard, I remain
Your friend and fellow-citizen,
J. A. QUITMAN.

THE OPINIONS OF SUMNER.—That our readers may know something of the opinions of this gentleman, lately elected a United States Senator from the State of Massachusetts, we quote a few paragraphs from his speech delivered at the Massachusetts Free-Soil Convention, October 3d, 1850.

"We demand," said he, "first and foremost, the instant repeal of the Fugitive Slave Bill."

"We demand that Congress receive into the Union no new slave State."

"And yet one thing further must be done: The Slave Power must be overturned, so that the Federal Government may be put openly, actively, and perpetually on the side of Freedom."

"And, still further, as if to do a deed which should make Heaven weep, 'all earth amazed,' this same Congress, in disregard of all the cherished safeguards of freedom, has passed a most cruel, unchristian, devilish law, to secure the return into slavery of those unfortunate bondmen who are found sheltered by our firesides."

"In the immortal catalogue of National Crimes this act has now passed, drawing with it, by an inexorable necessity, its authors also, and chiefly him who, as President of the United States, set his name to the Bill, and breathed into it that fatal breath without which it would have no life."

"Other Presidents may be forgotten, but the name signed to the Fugitive Slave Bill never be forgotten. There are depths of infamy as there are heights of fame; better far for him had he never been born; better far for his memory and for the good name of his children had he never been President."

"Sir, I will not dishonor the home of the pilgrims, and of the revolution, by admitting—nay, I CANNOT BELIEVE—that this LAW WILL BE EXECUTED HERE. Individuals among us as elsewhere, MAY FORGET HUMANITY IN A FANCIED LOYALTY TO LAW; BUT THE PUBLIC CONSCIENCE WILL NOT ALLOW A MAN, WHO HAS TRODDEN OUR STREETS AS A FREEMAN TO BE DRAGGED AWAY AS A SLAVE.—By his escape from bondage, he has shown that

true manhood, which must grapple to him every honest heart. He may be ignorant, rude, as he is poor, but he is of true nobility. The fugitive slaves of the United States are among the heroes of our age. In sacrificing them to this foul enactment of Congress, we should violate every sentiment of hospitality, every whispering of the heart, every dictate of religion."

"There are many who will never shrink at any cost, and notwithstanding all the atrocious penalties of this bill, from efforts to save a wandering fellow man from bondage—THEY WILL OFFER HIM THE SHELTER OF THEIR HOUSES, AND IF NEED BE, WILL PROTECT HIS LIBERTY BY FORCE. But let me be understood, I counsel no violence."

Gen. Cass' Testimony.

Gen. Cass, in a speech recently delivered by him at Tammany Hall, New York, made use of the following sentiments, to which we invite particular attention:

"It was useless to endeavor, said he, to conceal the fact: The South has been injured by the North. The North has violated the institutions of the South, has vilified her character. The North refuses to carry the provisions of the Constitution into effect. The North has allowed foreign mercenaries to prowl about among her cities, and preach against the South. [Great cheering.]—The North has allowed a member of the British Parliament to leave his seat abroad, and openly in our cities, advocate violence against the South.—He has interfered with our institutions, and hope all he could to subvert the Union. And not only does this foreign traitor receive countenance and encouragement here, but finds backers at home, where the foreign abolitionists say he has a right to exercise his benevolence, and preach a crusade against oppression and human slavery. Just reverse the case. Suppose we should send one of our orators to England to preach against the oppression of that 'unfortunate country, Ireland, [great cheers] what would be the result? Why, he would have the brawls and soldiers of the United Kingdom after him, and be on his way to Botany Bay in less than a week. [Cheers.] Yet this foreign crusader is here, and preaches about his right to exercise his benevolence. Why, his benevolence is only equalled by his impudence.—[Laughter and applause.]"

"We have now, continued Gen. Cass, adopted a compromise—a platform whereon all ends of the country can meet in common, and where we can once more renew the bonds of that Union which must and shall be inseparable. Why, what could we gain by dissolution? Nothing but woe. This Government is the world's best, last hope, and if this Confederation is destroyed, the genius of liberty will be destroyed with it. In the event of a dissolution, some three or four separate nationalities would be formed, which would be constantly engaged in hostilities against each other, as neighboring nations ever have been, and ever will be. We must therefore come forward in our might and put down these abolitionists, and with them the spirit of disunion; we must be true to ourselves and the nation. [Voices: We will, we will.]—Gen. C. proceeded: He was glad to hear this assurance from the Democracy at this time in Tammany Hall. It was characteristic of the Democracy to give such an assurance as that. But the Democracy must recollect that they alone did not preserve the Union. A large portion of another great party had shown themselves as true to the Union as Democrats could well be. The most prominent men of the Whig party had nobly come forward, and throwing themselves into the breach had sustained the brunt of the battle. [Great cheering and applause.] Let the Democracy do their credit, and award them the honor they deserve."

The National Intelligencer, the central whig organ, copies under its editorial head, with no mark of dissent, the following extract from the Philadelphia Ledger, a neutral paper. To the last half of the extract, we invite the attention of those slaveholders who would like to see what the most conservative of the Northern men say on the subject of slavery, and who would like farther to ascertain the sentiments of the leading whigs at Washington:

TIME AND PROGRESS.—As several warrants are alleged to have been issued in Boston for the arrest of more fugitive slaves, it may perhaps tend to calm the rage of excitement, if not dull the edge of fanaticism, to reflect on the fact that even Massachusetts, as a political member of the Union, is as much a slave State as South Carolina; and that even a repeal of the Fugitive Law would still leave her in that position, while the present Constitution binds together the Federal Union. Slavery, as a social, commercial, and political evil, is not congenial to the genius of Republican Government, yet the slave interest, as a political element is so interwoven and incorporated with our Government as to involve the disruption of the Union in its immediate removal. Time, reason, and the spirit of progress, in developing the real truths of political economy, must eventually cause it to disappear from the land. New elements are always in process of creation, to take the place of old ones, and as certain as that water will find its level, will the free principle pervade the universe.—But the passions of men cannot produce the change, which rests alone with a higher and wiser power.

We copy the following from the Boston "Transcript."

"Relative to the story of the purchase of Sims by a periodical dealer of this city, we learn from an authentic source that such is not, as yet, at least the fact. The party in question has been told by the agent of the claimant, J. B. Bacon, that he can probably purchase Sims after his arrival in Georgia, for \$1,500. The orders of the master were, not to sell him here at any price."

"Though the city will have to pay a greater share of the expense of preserving the peace, yet it is thought that the expense which will fall upon the master, in recovering the slave, will be very large, perhaps as high as \$1,000 or \$2,000."

The New York Journal of Commerce, of the 25th ult., says:

"We learn that the construction of a large steam propeller, somewhat larger than the Lafayette recently built at one of ship yards, has been commenced by Messrs. Jabez Williams & Sons, at their new yard at Green Point, designed to be a pioneer of a line from Charleston to Liverpool.—The timber for the keel is in the course of preparation. Her length will be 200 feet; breadth 37; depth of hold, 30; and her measurement will be about 1300 tons."

The sword won by Napoleon at the battle of Marengo has been purchased by Nicholas of Russia for \$32,000. The Emperor has already a large collection of relics by the great soldier.

Rev. Mr. Leahy was mobbed at Chicago on the 15th inst., but was not seriously injured.—*Ec.*